

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

P - MR. SISCO

S/S:CABORG

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

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NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT SADAT

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD
TO PRESIDENT SADAT:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I WRITE TO YOU AS A FRIEND,
AS AN ADMIRER OF YOUR GREAT STATESMANSHIP, OF YOUR COURAGE
AND INTEGRITY.

ABOVE ALL, MR. PRESIDENT, I AM WRITING TO YOU CONVINCED
MORE THAN EVER THAT THE COURSE WE HAVE CHOSEN TOGETHER IS
THE RIGHT ONE, FOR EGYPT, FOR ALL OF THE ARABS, AND FOR THE
UNITED STATES.

THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE SECOND AGREEMENT BETWEEN
EGYPT AND ISRAEL ON THE SINAI WAS, AS I HAVE SAID, A

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HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT. IT IS A DECISION YOU TOOK IN ORDER TO

ADVANCE TOWARD A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST
NOT ONLY, AS YOU SAID TO ME, FOR YOUR COUNTRY BUT FOR THE
ENTIRE AREA. NOW THAT THIS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED I

WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU MY VIEWS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION
AND OF PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE.

THE AGREEMENT JUST CONCLUDED HAS BROUGHT TANGIBLE BENEFITS
TO EGYPT. NOT ONLY WILL YOU RECOVER THE USE OF YOUR
NATION'S OIL RESOURCES IN THE SINAI, BUT YOU HAVE ALSO
BROUGHT ABOUT ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE STRATEGIC
SINAI PASSES. TO HAVE FOREGONE THESE GAINS IN ORDER TO
PURSUE, WITHOUT LAYING ANY GROUNDWORK, AN ALL-OR-NOTHING
NEGOTIATION AT GENEVA WOULD IN MY JUDGMENT HAVE ASSURED
STALEMATE AND A RAPID DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION TO THE
THE BENEFIT OF NO ONE COUNTRY. IT WAS THIS REALITY WHICH
LED US, AS IT DID YOU, TO CONCLUDE THAT A FURTHER INTERIM
AGREEMENT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE EARLY PRACTICAL
PROGRESS. IN SEIZING THIS OPPORTUNITY, YOU HAVE MADE
POSSIBLE WHAT COULD BECOME, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, A TURNING
POINT TOWARD PEACE WITH JUSTICE NOT ONLY FOR EGYPT BUT
ALSO FOR THE ENTIRE ARAB WORLD TO WHICH EGYPT HAS SO LONG
GIVEN LEADERSHIP. THESE REALITIES WILL SURVIVE LONG AFTER
THE CRITICISM EMANATING FROM SOME QUARTERS HAS BEEN FOR-
GOTTEN.

HERE IN THE UNITED STATES I BELIEVE THINGS ARE GOING

WELL. THE CONGRESS IS SHOWING A SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING
OF THE AGREEMENT AND OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH THE
UNITED STATES HAS UNDERTAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH IT. I
BELIEVE THAT THE CONGRESS WILL SHORTLY GIVE ITS APPROVAL
TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL TO ENTRUST TO AMERICAN CIVILIAN
TECHNICIANS THE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM IN THE SINAI PASSES,
TO SERVE AS YOU SO APTLY PUT IT, AS WITNESSES TO THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT. THE CONGRESS ALSO
APPEARS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD PROVIDING THE ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT WHICH WE DISCUSSED IN SALZBURG AND
WHICH SECRETARY KISSINGER FURTHER DISCUSSED WITH YOU IN
ALEXANDRIA. I PLAN TO SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE CONGRESS
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FOR DOLS 700 MILLION IN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPT.

WE HAVE ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER GOVERN-
MENTS TO EMPHASIZE HOW IMPORTANT THIS AGREEMENT IS AS A
STEP TOWARD A JUST AND LASTING PEACE. WE HAVE ENCOURAGED
THEM TO GIVE BROAD SUPPORT TO YOU. DESPITE THE
PREDICTABLE CRITICISMS WHICH HAVE COME FROM CERTAIN
COUNTRIES, I AM CONVINCED THAT HISTORY WILL SHOW THAT

YOU ARE THE ONLY ARAB LEADER WHO HAS MADE TANGIBLE PROGRESS TOWARD A JUST PEACE. THE WORLD WILL COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT YOU MADE YOUR HISTORIC DECISION NOT JUST FOR EGYPT BUT FOR ALL ARABS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE THESE POINTS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND TO URGE THEM TO TAKE CONCRETE ACTIONS TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR SUPPORT OF YOUR POLICIES.

I HAVE NOTED THE PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN COMING FROM THE MIDDLE EAST THAT THE AGREEMENT NOT FREEZE THE SITUATION DIPLOMATICALLY. I SHARE THIS VIEW. WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO SYRIA, SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS TOLD PRESIDENT ASAD THAT WE WOULD MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO HELP ACHIEVE PROGRESS ON THE SYRIAN FRONT, AND HE HAS ASSURED PRESIDENT ASAD THAT THE UNITED STATES COUNTS ON A UNITED ARAB WORLD TO FURTHER THE PEACE PROCESS. IN OUR VIEW, DIVISION IN THE ARAB WORLD IS THE DANGER TO FUTURE PROGRESS. AS I HAVE SAID ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT A LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST MUST INVOLVE PROGRESS ON ALL FRONTS AND MUST BE BASED ON CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THE INTERESTS OF ALL ITS PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIANS.

WITH REGARD TO THE SOVIET UNION I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE TAKEN A VERY FIRM LINE WITH GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV. THE SOVIET RESPONSE, WHILE COMPLAINING OVER THE LACK OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, INDICATES THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO PLAY AN OBSTRUCTIONIST ROLE. I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE, BASED ON A COMMUNICATION WE RECEIVED WITHIN THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS FROM THE SOVIETS, THAT THEY WILL NOT MAKE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES. SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL BE MEETING FOREIGN MINISTER
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GROMYKO NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION, AND WE WILL KEEP YOU CURRENTLY INFORMED, AS WE HAVE THROUGHOUT, OF THESE EXCHANGES.

AN ADDITIONAL REASON FOR MY HIGH SENSE OF GRATIFICATION AT THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THIS AGREEMENT IS THE PROSPECT THAT IT WILL NOW BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU AND MRS. SADAT TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES. YOUR VISIT IS ONE THAT MRS. FORD AND I HAVE LONG LOOKED FORWARD TO WITH GREAT PLEASURE. I WANT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO GET TO KNOW YOU AS I DO. I AM CONFIDENT THAT SUCH A VISIT WILL REINFORCE BOTH OUR OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL TIES AND REINFORCE OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I HOPE YOU WILL PLAN ON BOTH A STATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON AS WELL AS ALLOW TIME TO TRAVEL TO OTHER

PARTS OF AMERICA. I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT YOU PLAN
YOUR VISIT STARTING OCTOBER 28.

WITH WARM REGARDS TO YOU, MRS. SADAT, AND YOUR FAMILY,
SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD UNQUOTE
END MESSAGE.

2. FYI: ONE MILLION TONS OF GRAIN UNDER PL 480 IS IN
ADDITION TO DOLLARS 700 MILLION MENTIONED IN PRESIDENT'S
LETTER. END FYI. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PEACE, AGREEMENTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 9/10/75
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE214854
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ALATHERTON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850004-0734, N750004-0230
From: STATE NEA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750965/aaaacfro.tel
Line Count: 179
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT SADAT
TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, EG, US, (SADAT, ANWAR), (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006